

Appl. No. 09/965,998
Amdt. dated March 1, 2005
Reply to Office action of February 3, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application;

Listing of Claims:

1. (Withdrawn) A method comprising:
storing operating system drivers for at least two different types of operating systems on a read only memory (ROM) within the computer system; and
copying at least one of the operating system drivers from a virtual disk drive of the computer system during the operating system installation.
2. (Previously presented) A method of providing operating system drivers during an operating system installation on a computer system, the method comprising:
storing the operating system drivers on a read only memory (ROM) within the computer system;
copying at least one of the operating system drivers from a virtual disk drive of the computer system during the operating system installation by:
invoking basic input output system (BIOS) routines; and
showing the operating system drivers residing on the ROM as files stored on the virtual disk drive by the BIOS routines.
3. (Previously presented) The method of providing operating system drivers as defined in claim 2 further comprising:
requesting disk services to the virtual disk drive by:
invoking interrupt 13h BIOS routines directed to the virtual disk drive; and

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returning a file name for at least one of the operating system drivers
by the interrupt 13h BIOS routines as if the operating system
drivers resided on the virtual disk drive.

4. (Withdrawn) The method of providing operating system drivers as defined in claim 1 wherein storing the operating system drivers on the ROM within the computer system further comprises storing the operating system drivers on the ROM along with a basic input output system (BIOS).

5. (Withdrawn) The method as defined in claim 1 wherein storing operating system drivers on the ROM within the computer further comprises:
storing on the ROM a first set of operating system drivers operable with a first operating system; and
storing on the ROM a second set of operating system drivers operable with a second operating system.

6. (Withdrawn) The method as defined in claim 5 further comprising having only operating system drivers operable with the operating system to be installed available for copying from the virtual disk drive.

7. (Previously presented) A method of providing operating system drivers during an operating system installation on a computer system, the method comprising:

storing the operating system drivers on a read only memory (ROM) within the computer system by:

storing on the ROM a first set of operating system drivers operable with a first operating system; and
storing on the ROM a second set of operating system drivers operable with a second operating system;

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copying at least one of the operating system drivers from a virtual disk drive of the computer system during the operating system installation; and

having only operating system drivers operable with the operating system to be installed available for copying from the virtual disk drive by showing only the operating system drivers operable with the operating system to be installed as files stored on the virtual disk drive by the BIOS routines.

8. (Previously presented) The method of providing operating system drivers as defined in claim 7 wherein showing the operating system drivers as files stored on the virtual disk drive further comprises:

requesting disk services to a disk drive name that does not physically reside in the computer system by:

invoking interrupt 13h BIOS routines directed to the disk drive name that does not physically reside in the computer system;

returning a file name for operable operating system drivers by the interrupt 13h BIOS services as if the operating system drivers resided on the disk drive name that does not physically reside in the computer system.

9. (Withdrawn) A computer system comprising:

a CPU;

a main memory array coupled to the CPU;

an expansion bus coupled to the CPU; and

a read only memory (ROM) array coupled to the expansion bus, wherein the ROM array stores operating system drivers;

wherein the computer system makes the operating system drivers appear to reside on a virtual floppy drive for copying during installation of an operating system for the computer system, and wherein the

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computer system loads the operating system drivers during booting of the operating from locations other than the ROM.

10. (Withdrawn) The computer system as defined in claim 9 wherein the ROM array also stores basic input output system (BIOS) firmware.

11. (Withdrawn) The computer system as defined in claim 10 wherein the BIOS firmware, when invoked for disk services, makes the operating system drivers appear to reside on the virtual floppy drive.

12. (Withdrawn) The computer system as defined in claim 9 further comprising:

said ROM array stores a first set of operating system drivers for a first operating system;

said ROM array stores a second set of operating system drivers for a second operating system; and

wherein the computer system makes only one of the first and second set of operating system drivers available for copying from the virtual floppy drive during installation of the operating system for the computer system.

13. (Withdrawn) A method comprising:

storing operating system drivers on a read only memory (ROM);

informing a basic input output system (BIOS) of an operating system type to be installed;

making available during the installation of the operating system the operating system drivers stored on the ROM appropriate for the operating system type to be installed;

installing the operating system;

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copying at the appropriate time during the installation of the operating system at least one of the operating system drivers from a virtual floppy drive; and then booting the installed operating system.

14. (Withdrawn) The method as defined in claim 13 wherein storing operating system drivers on the ROM further comprises:

storing a first set of operating system drivers operable with a first operating system; and
storing a second set of operating system drivers operable with a second operating system.

15. (Withdrawn) The method as defined in claim 14 wherein informing the BIOS of the operating system type to be installed further comprises:

selecting the operating system type to be installed on a BIOS setup screen; and
setting an environment variable in a non-volatile random access memory (RAM) based on the selecting step that indicates the operating system type to be installed.

16. (Withdrawn) The method as defined in claim 15 wherein making available the operating system drivers stored on the ROM further comprises:

using BIOS programs to access the operating system drivers stored on the ROM;
referring, by the BIOS programs, to the environment variable in non-volatile RAM; and
making one of the first and second set of operating system drivers available on the virtual floppy drive by the BIOS program based on a state of the environment variable in non-volatile RAM.

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17. (Previously presented) A read only memory (ROM) device comprising:
a basic input output system (BIOS) program;
a set of hardware drivers; and
wherein the BIOS program, when executed by a microprocessor, makes
the set of hardware drivers available for copying during Installation
of an operating system by showing the hardware drivers on the
ROM as files on a virtual disk drive.
18. (Previously presented) The ROM device as defined in claim 17 wherein
the set of hardware drivers further comprises:
a first set of hardware drivers for use with a first type operating system;
a second set of hardware drivers for use with a second type operating
system; and
wherein the BIOS program makes only the first set of hardware drivers
available during installation of the first type operating system, and
wherein the BIOS program makes only the second set of hardware
drivers available during installation of the second type operating
system.
19. (Withdrawn) A method of providing operating system drivers during an
operating system installation on a computer system, the method comprising:
storing a first set of operating system drivers operable with a first operating
system in a read only memory (ROM) of the computer system;
storing a second set of operating system drivers operable with a second
operating system in the ROM; and
copying at least one of the operating system drivers from a virtual disk
drive of the computer system during the operating system
installation.

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20. (Withdrawn) The method of providing operating system drivers as defined in claim 19 further comprising:

selecting on a basic input output system (BIOS) setup screen one of the first and second sets of operating systems, a selected system, to be installed on the computer system; and
having only operating system drivers operable with selected system, selected drivers, available for copying from the virtual drive.

21. (Withdrawn) The method of providing operating system drivers as defined in claim 20 further comprising:

requesting disk services to a disk drive name that does not physically reside in the computer system by:
invoking interrupt 13h BIOS services directed to the disk drive name that does not physically reside in the computer system; and
returning file names for the selected drivers by the interrupt 13h BIOS services as if the selected drivers resided on the disk drive name that does not physically reside in the computer system.

22. (Cancelled).

23. (Previously presented) A computer system comprising:

a CPU;
a main memory array coupled to the CPU;
an expansion bus coupled to the CPU; and
a read only memory (ROM) coupled to the expansion bus, wherein the ROM stores basic input output system (BIOS) programs;
wherein the BIOS programs of the ROM show a virtual floppy drive whose contents reside in the random access memory (RAM) area of the virtual address space.

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24. (Previously presented) A computer system comprising:
a CPU;
a main memory array coupled to the CPU;
an expansion bus coupled to the CPU; and
a read only memory (ROM) coupled to the expansion bus, wherein the
ROM stores basic input output system (BIOS) programs;
wherein the BIOS programs of the ROM show a virtual floppy drive whose
contents reside in the ROM area of the virtual address space.
25. (Previously presented) The computer system as defined in claim 24
further comprising:
said ROM contains operating system drivers necessary to interface an
operating system of the computer system with hardware of the
computer system; and
wherein the BIOS programs show the operating system drivers on the
ROM as the contents of the virtual floppy drive.
26. (Previously presented) The computer system as defined in claim 25
further comprising:
said ROM contains a first set of operating system drivers for use with a
first operating system;
said ROM also contains a second set of operating system drivers for use
with a second operating system; and
wherein the BIOS programs show as contents of the virtual floppy drive the
first set of operating system drivers if the first operating system is to
be installed on the computer system, and wherein the BIOS
programs are further adapted to show as contents of the virtual
floppy drive the second set of operating system drivers if the
second operating system is to be installed on the computer system.

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27. (Withdrawn) A method of providing operating system drivers during an operating system installation on a computer system, the method comprising:

- storing a first floppy image having a first set of operating system drivers operable with a first operating system, the first floppy image stored in a read only memory (ROM) of the computer system;
- storing a second floppy image having a second set of operating system drivers operable with a second operating system, the second floppy image stored in the ROM; and
- providing one of the first and second floppy images as a virtual floppy drive during the operating system installation.

28. (Withdrawn) The method of providing operating system drivers as defined in claim 27 further comprising:

- selecting on a basic input output system (BIOS) setup screen one of the first and second sets of operating systems, a selected system, to be installed on the computer system; and
- having only the floppy image having operating system drivers operable with selected system, a selected floppy image, available on the virtual floppy drive.

29. (Withdrawn) The method of providing operating system drivers as defined in claim 28 wherein providing one of the first and second floppy images as a virtual floppy drive during the operating system installation further comprising:

- requesting disk services to a disk drive name that does not physically reside in the computer system by:
- invoking Interrupt 13h BIOS services directed to the disk drive name that does not physically reside in the computer system; and
- returning file names in the selected floppy image by the interrupt 13h BIOS services as if the selected floppy image resided on the disk drive name that does not physically reside in the computer system.